

Claim Amendments

16. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a solution of calcium ions from carbide lime, comprising

- (i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula $\text{HOCH}_2(\text{CHOH})_n\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ in which n is 1 to 6; and
- (ii) optionally separating insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i).

17. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 16, wherein the lime is carbide lime.~~

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein insoluble impurities are separated from the solution resulting from (i).

19. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 16, wherein the lime is a product of the calcining of limestone or dolomite.~~

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is glycerol.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~sugar alcohol~~ polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol or erythritol.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as 10%-80% by weight solution in water.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as a 10% to 60% by weight solution.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the glycerol is employed as a 60% to 80% by weight solution in water.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the amount of lime is such as to provide 3-12 parts by weight per ~~10 to 80% by weight of the polyhydroxy compound~~ 100 parts by weight of the aqueous solution of the polyhydroxy compound.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 effected at a temperature of 5°C-60°C.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a calcium containing product comprising the steps of:

- (i) preparing a solution of calcium ions according to the procedure of ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 16; and
- (ii) adding to the solution from (i) a precipitating agent which causes precipitation of the desired calcium containing product.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the precipitating agent is carbon dioxide and the product obtained is precipitated calcium carbonate.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of producing precipitated calcium carbonate from carbide lime comprising:

- (i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of sorbitol to extract calcium from the carbide lime;
- (ii) separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i); and
- (iii) treating the solution with carbon dioxide.